

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

AID-20 NEA-10 EB-11 SS-20 SCEM-02 TRSE-00 COME-00

EUR-25 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 039687

R 181530Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5091

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1151

E9O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GB, LY

SUBJ: VISIT OF LIBYAN DELEGATION

1. GOG ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY DECEMBER 17 THAT SEVEN-MAN LIBYAN DELEGATION HEADED BY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER BIN 'AMIR HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BONGO DECEMBER 15 AND HAD CARRIED MESSAGE TO HIM FROM COL QADHAFFI. VISIT DESCRIBED AS "MANIFESTATION OF FRATERNAL COOPERATION" INITIATED BY BONGO VISIT TO LIBYA FOLLOWING ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

2. GOG ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY THAT OVER WEEKEND PRESIDENT BONGO HAD RECEIVED DELEGATION OF 105 MOSLEM RESIDENTS OF GABON WHO WISHED MAKE MECCA PILGRIMAGE AND THAT IMAM OF LIBREVILLE HAD THANKED BONGO FOR ASSISTANCE TO PILGRIMS. BONGO ALSO QUOTED AS EXPRESSING DESIRE THAT LIBREVILLE BE PROVIDED WITH MORE MODERN MOSQUE (SHADES OF THE CULTURAL CENTER*) AND THAT GABONESE CATHOLICS MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME.

3. FRENCH EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS LIBYANS OFFERED FINANCIAL
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ASSISTANCE FOR TRANSGABON RAIROAD AND (TOGETHER WITH

SAUDIS AND UAE) FOR LIBREVILLE MOSQUE/ISLAMIC CENTER, PLUS URGED GABONESE TO ALIGN THEIR PETROLEUM POLICY MORE CLOSELY WITH THAT OF ARABS. FRENCH FEEL BONGO WILL ACCEPT LIBYAN AID OFFERS AS LONG AS NOT TOO MANY STRINGS ATTACHED. FRENCH DO NOT SEE BONGO RADICALIZING GA*ONESE OIL POLICY. THEY NOTE HIS COMMENTS IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR AT CORNERSTONE LAYING CEREMONY OF NEW PORT-GENTIL REFINERY LAST WEEK RE: EFFICACY OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OIL COMPANIES AND GABONESE GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: BONGO CONTINUES TO PLAY HIS ARABIC AND ISLAMIC CA*DS BUT WITH DISCRETION EVIDENTLY MINDFUL OF GABON'S LARGE CHRISTIAN POPULATION AND ITS HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AND EXPERTISE. MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MOSLEMS, VISITS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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